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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
WASHINGTON

INSTITUTIONAL CONSTRUCTION

An Avenue to Employment

◆

A series of radio addresses by national leaders on the construction, repair, and improvement of churches, schools, colleges, universities, hospitals, and similar institutions

given under the auspices of the

PRESIDENT'S EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR EMPLOYMENT

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Box 334

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1931

THE PRESIDENT'S EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR EMPLOYMENT

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Oct 3 1933

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FOREWORD

Unemployment has become a challenge not only to the leaders in American industry but to the spokesmen of our professions as well. Educators, doctors, ministers, and other responsible leaders in State and civic enterprise have responded vigorously to the need for action. Although cooperating extensively in community relief programs, they have also directed their attention in increasing numbers to the essential necessity of providing work for the unemployed. Within their own field of public service institutions they have urged the acceleration of building construction and repair as a common benefit at this time.

The addresses here compiled were given as nation-wide radio broadcasts under the committee's auspices during February and March, 1931. The widespread response which they received has led to their publication in this form in order to make them available to all interested persons. The committee is indebted not only to the speakers participating in the series but also to the Columbia and National broadcasting systems.

INSTITUTIONAL CONSTRUCTION

An Avenue to Employment

I. INTRODUCTORY: THE AID WHICH NONPROFIT INSTITUTIONS CAN GIVE TO EMPLOYMENT

ARTHUR WOODS, *chairman, President's Emergency Committee for Employment*

It is my privilege to introduce a series of short talks sponsored by President Hoover's Emergency Committee for Employment. These talks will be delivered by prominent representatives of churches, schools, colleges and universities, hospitals, and mental institutions. The speakers will testify from their own experience as to the opportunity for building programs by such institutions during times of business depression. I, for my part, should like to direct attention to the tremendous boost such institutions can give the construction industry, which alone gives employment to approximately 10 per cent of the entire working population of the United States.

Of course you know that in a time of business depression the construction industry slumps; and since it has been estimated that every job in this field creates jobs indirectly for three other people because of the puchasing power of the wages which are paid, you can see that the depression is increased considerably by this recession of activity.

BILLIONS INVESTED

Now, when you realize the vast amount of money which has been invested in the fields of the nonprofit-making institutions, you see their importance in this situation.

In 1928 more than $3,100,000,000 were invested in hospital buildings in this country. More than $1,018,000,000 are invested in the buildings of the colleges and universities of the country. The value of church property, as compiled in 1926, exceeds $3,839,000,000. Thus the investment in these three groups alone approaches $8,000,000,000. The expenditures of these institutions, naturally, have been a great factor in our prosperity.

When private construction is at its height, with building costs at the peak, public and semipublic institutions can best hold back their expenditures, making a practice of saving such work for periods of depression. If we exercise this principle of restraint when times are good, we can store up great reservoirs of public and semipublic works, getting all the sites selected, the plans drawn up, the authorization and litigation attended to; and then, when a depression dries up the construction industry, we can open the spillways and let in our reserves.

COST IS LESS

Construction at this time costs less money than it does in normal times. Costs are reduced—in some cases as much as 20 per cent.

The particular merit of building programs by our nonprofit groups at the present time is that they are not confined to any one area. Colleges, hospitals, secondary schools, mental institutions, and churches are found everywhere in our country. Those in charge of these institutions can bring about a most desirable spreading of employment by undertaking construction work now. This will have the effect of moving materials; it will put money into circulation and bolster purchasing power everywhere; and it will have an intangible but also immeasurable effect on local morale.

Furthermore, nonprofit-making institutions, though they serve the public good, are largely owned and operated by private interests and financed by private subscription. They are not affected by politics and red tape. The quick authorization of such construction as the institutions may undertake, with the consequent stimulus to prosperity, is within the power of groups of generous and public-spirited citizens.

ECONOMIC USE OF FUNDS

The country will be grateful to those who are the presidents of our colleges and universities, the principals of our secondary schools, the ministers of our churches, the superintendents of our hospitals and State institutions—all those of you who are familiar with whatever need for construction work may exist within the gates of your own institutions—to do all that lies in your power to get such construction work under way. The cooperation will be welcomed of those who, through their generosity as trustees or directors of such institutions, can make such work financially possible. Building at this time, you will help to complete the rout of this plague of unemployment which has left so much human misery in our land; but you will also be heeding the dictates of business sense by making an economic use of funds to improve your standards of service to our population.

II. STATE INSTITUTIONS: THE NEED FOR COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

WILLIAM J. ELLIS, *commissioner, New Jersey State Department of Institutions and Agencies*[1]

A public institution is in fact a community—it is a busy place peopled by all sorts of folk—in most cases it is like a happy village. The larger public institutions are as large as a small city—perhaps 5,000 to 6,000 patients and 1,000 to 1,500 employees. This means that these institutional communities have all the problems and all the opportunities of our municipalities in the world outside. They have miles or roads, complex water, sewer, and steam and electric lines. They present problems of landscaping, grading, and of building construction. In these institutional communities are housing facilities, hospitals, schools, churches, and recreational centers and other units, characteristic of a typical small city.

In the modern public institution there is usually a well-organized maintenance department to look after the upkeep and repairs, alterations and improvement of the physical plant. Such work is constant and diversified.

NEED NOW RECOGNIZED

For some years the public institutions have been faced with steadily mounting population. In many instances, current repair and upkeep has taken a second place to the importance of pressing new construction to accommodate the ever-increasing population.

Far-sighted, practical institution boards of trustees and managers are recognizing that there is to-day a unique opportunity to secure the needed repairs, alterations, and improvements to institutions and at the same time assist in putting men to work and speeding up the movement for industrial stability.

This is the opportune time for all types of municipal, county, and State institutions to press forward their plans for immediate work.

These plans should not be hit or miss, but should be part of the well thought-out, comprehensive study for the institution—a complete landscape engineering plan, for example, is basic for the development of any public institution.

Consistent with such a plan, now is the time to put projects for road construction, sidewalks, landscaping, and grading before the proper budget and appropriating bodies for their action. All public institutions have work of this kind. Many such institutions can well claim a share of the labor to be paid from the "unemployment funds."

[1] Through the courtesy of David Lawrence this address was given during a part of the period of his weekly broadcast.

COSTS ARE LOWER

Every institution which has a comprehensive engineering plan for perfecting its utilities, water, heat, electric, sewage, etc., will find that by reviewing these plans at this time it can secure funds for necessary work to be performed now when construction costs are considerably lower than in years past.

In New Jersey we have had a complete survey of all fire hazards in all State institution buildings made by the schedule rating office of Newark. Through these exacting, scientific studies detailed programs for further safeguarding all institution property have been prepared, estimates have been made, and detailed budget requests submitted. This is the type of work that serves a triple utility, as it provides protection to life and property, reduces operating costs (through reduced insurance premiums), and gives needed work for essential purposes. No better or wiser course could be followed by the managers of any public or private institution than to avail itself of the cooperative services of the underwriters and schedule rating offices for such surveys.

TIME IS IDEAL

Finally, this is a really great opportunity for public institutions to serve the public welfare through accelerating major construction projects. These programs should be thoughtfully developed by competent architects having in mind the major objectives of the institution.

It is a wise plan to secure now a careful architectural and engineering survey as a basis for necessary building development. The present is an ideal time for pressing forward with facilities that will serve an immediate purpose in assisting to put men to work on the job itself and in the fabricating industries and all allied endeavors, and thus furnishing the institution with the means for greater service to the public.

III. CHURCHES: UNEMPLOYMENT A CHALLENGE TO BOTH INSPIRATION AND ACTION

Rev. William Hiram Foulkes, D. D., *pastor, Old First Church, Newark, N. J., and vice president International Society of Christian Endeavor*

Organized religion faces a twofold challenge in the present unemployment situation. On the one hand, it is summoned to an enlarged service in the field of spiritual and moral encouragement. Men are not machines. They must be kept going by hidden energies. If the church is to be worthy of the confidence of the people of the United States at the present critical time, it must keep the fires of faith and courage burning brightly upon its altars. It must send forth its adherents into the disturbed and even bewildered work-a-day world with unyielding faith and unabated energy. Such a task is worthy of the best religion has to offer, no matter what the cost.

The church, in other words, must continue to inspire both employer and employee at every possible point of contact, and not least, it must befriend those who are without work. Close your churches if you will and disintegrate their spiritual and moral appeals. In that case industry and commerce might as well shut up shop. Unless, however, the church can actually call forth courage and hope in human lives and inspire men to undertake hard tasks, it will not deserve to endure. The unemployment situation gives every form of organized religion a chance to show the real stuff of which it is made.

CAN DEFER COSTS

The second thing that organized religion must do in the present crisis is to practice what it preaches. Does the church call upon the Nation to go forward with faith and not fear? Then let the church do the same. Does the church urge a great building program upon the Nation, involving public works and private enterprises? Then let it carry out such a program itself. This is the best time in the world for thousands of churches to make needed alterations and improvements in their edifices. There is no need to be appalled either because the money may not all be in hand or because the totals are large. A part of the cost may legitimately be financed over a period of years upon a perfectly sound basis.

If the officers and members of the various religious bodies across the country could grasp the real significance of the present situation they would hasten to embark upon the construction of church edifices, parish houses, and Sunday school buildings. Such activity would acomplish several desirable ends. It would revive the spirit of the church and make that spirit more influential in the life of the

community. It would give employment, in the aggregate to thousands upon thousands of men and would release for normal purchasing power large sums of money, widely distributed, paid out as wages. It would also guarantee, because of available economies, that every dollar spent for building at the present time would do a full dollar's worth of work. It would also have a marked reflex influence upon many other enterprises not directly connected with the church but under the influence of its spirit.

IS AKIN TO WAR

If the churches of America will take the present unemployment situation as seriously to heart as they did the sale of Government securities or the saving of food during war days, they will be worthy of the praise which President Hoover bestowed upon them when he was food administrator, a dozen years ago, namely, for their success in arousing the conscience of the Nation. That noble task is as imperative in 1931 as it was in 1917–18. Let the church, therefore, help to build up the morale of the Nation and thus make it possible to set men to work. Let it also build up its own morale and set its own people to work.

I would suggest as a motto for us all, in the present hour, the words of Nehemiah of old: "The God of Heaven, He will prosper us, therefore, we His servants will arise and build."

IV. HOSPITALS: INCREASING OUR SAFEGUARDS AGAINST SICKNESS AND UNEMPLOYMENT

PAUL H. FESLER, *superintendent, University of Minnesota Hospital, and president elect, American Hospital Association*

The hospital is taken for granted by most of us. The average person is interested only when a member of his family is forced to make use of it. One out of ten of our population of 120,000,000 use the hospital each year.

There are 7,000 hospitals in this country containing 900,000 beds, representing an investment of more than $3,000,000,000. The hospital is fifth in the list of industries from the standpoint of capital investment. As about 90 per cent of the hospitals are nonprofit institutions, they can not be considered a business but a service institution as important to the community as the school, police, or fire department. They must be able to serve a scientifically trained medical profession in the care of all people regardless of their social or financial standing; therefore they are public agencies and come under the head of public improvements as mentioned by our President.

ILLNESS HAS INCREASED

No agency is better able to observe the effects of unemployment than the hospital. As I speak to you, thousands of individuals are patients in public hospitals who have not used them in the past. Public hospitals are being put to a test exceeded only by the influenza epidemic of 1918. The out-patient departments are being taxed to the limit. This condition is a result of business depression and unemployment.

At the onset of the depression many hospitals were planning improvements and additions which have been delayed in order to meet the situation. The improvements are important, and those responsible for the conduct of such institutions recognize that the hospital is in position to contribute much to the solution of unemployment of proceeding with their building programs at this time.

Most of us think of the general hospital in connection with the care of medical and surgical conditions, but statistics show that more than half of our hospital beds are in mental institutions. It is well known that in most States such institutions are overcrowded and in many of them there are fire hazards endangering the lives of the patients. Psychopathic hospitals are needed in many States.

NEED FOR MORE HOSPITALS

There is a need in most States for additional facilities for the tuberculous patient, and most tuberculosis hospitals should be

remodeled to be able to carry on the surgical treatment of tuberculosis. There is a need in most States for improved care of the convalescent and chronic patient. It is well known that there are more than 375,000 crippled children in this country and many States have made no provision for their care. More than 4,000 crippled children are on the waiting lists of existing hospitals. Many of our local hospitals need to be modernized to care for contagious diseases. While there is a surplus of hospital beds in certain centers of the 3,078 counties of the United States, there are only 479 county hospitals. Many of these communities owe it to the public to furnish the medical profession with improved facilities. Health centers in many of the communities, now being relieved by funds from the Red Cross, would have prevented much of this suffering.

CAN CONTRIBUTE TO HEALTH

At this time, when the cost of material is low and when labor is plentiful, it is an advantageous time to carry on building programs wherever desirable and necessary, not only improving conditions for the care of the sick and injured, but to furnish employment for thousands of our citizens. I am sure those responsible for such institutions, such as governors, legislatures, hospital boards, city and county officials, and members of the medical profession will consider the hospital a necessary public service for all the people and will give it attention along with building programs for roads and other public improvements, thereby contributing to the health of our own and future generations.

V. HOUSING: AN IMMEDIATE AND PERMANENT BULWARK AGAINST LOWERED LIVING STANDARDS

HON. ALFRED E. SMITH, *former governor of New York*

Unemployment, in such proportions as we have had it during the past year and still have it, is a comparatively new thing to this country, particularly as it has lasted over an extended period. We faced it courageously and endeavored to deal with it in an American fashion. We have done everything we could to maintain the self-respect of those who, through no fault of their own, are out of employment. It remains now to seek constructive measures for help in bringing the ordinary processes of production and consumption into activity that will speed up employment.

There is a nation-wide problem to which we could turn our hands effectively and solve a fundamental need while supplying opportunity for sound earnings to many thousands. Unemployment funds have been very largely used for improvised jobs—all sorts of emergency work which might not otherwise be done. I have urged that committees on unemployment take under careful consideration the utilization of large funds which people are ready to contribute for the relief of unemployment to accomplish some permanent good for the community. The fundamental problem which could help to reestablish the industrial cycle and really help to relieve us of our economic difficulties and at the same time accomplish a much-needed reform is the provision of decent, sanitary, attractive housing for our lowest income groups.

HOUSING PROBLEM NATION-WIDE

For many years I have been actively interested in clearing out the old dilapidated tenement districts in my own city and State and replacing them with modern dwellings to be rented at low cost. I know that this problem is nation-wide. Every city has its battered, wretched, old quarters that have deteriorated until the houses which they contain and which are still occupied for dwelling purposes are really unfit for human habitation. Cities, towns, and villages, large and small, have this situation to face. Sometimes it is due to a change in a neighborhood which has been hitherto devoted to residences and has been invaded by business. Sometimes the town has grown out in an entirely different direction and left houses which were intended for one family to be turned into tenements to house many. I regret to say that in New York City there are still thousands of families living in tenement houses pronounced unfit for human habitation 40 years ago. This is no new situation. The large cities such as New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, and Boston have all had to face it, but progress is slow.

In every part of the country there are people out of work. The two things suggest to my mind a direct relationship to each other. It has always been admitted that in any economic revival the building industries must lead. When you build a house you set in motion many thousands of wheels in every direction. Not alone the men who are employed in tearing down the old house or even those who participate in all the varied lines of construction that it takes to put up new buildings receive employment, but in every direction factories are set in motion to supply materials, all the things which are needed from bricks to mortar to plumbing fixtures and hardware, to say nothing of paint and lumber and transportation facilities which are stimulated to distribute them.

FOR A SPECIFIC KIND OF HOUSING

The argument I want to make is not just for any kind of building construction but for a very special kind of construction. Those who are philanthropically inclined and want to help unemployment by direct gifts to furnish employment may do so in no better way than by indicating that their subscription should be applied to housing undertakings. The type of housing which I have in mind may be built for cooperative ownership, for individual ownership, or in large blocks of apartments for rental. In many parts of the country limited dividend companies have been formed which could utilize millions of dollars for the construction of this type of housing.

While we go on modernizing our cities, and building great skyscrapers and fine hotels and big apartment houses, let us remember the ugly areas where the masses of our population live. Let us utilize this great opportunity when people's hearts are opened to the material needs of others to urge unemployment committees everywhere to take into consideration the use of funds to relieve housing conditions as well as unemployed.

WORK CAN BE FOUND

The types of people who are unemployed to-day have, many of them, never been out of a job before. They need the encouragement of work to do and not just charitable relief in the form of food and clothing. Work can be found for them if constructive relief is considered. If any unemployment committee will buy an area occupied by old tenement houses, tear them down and build new buildings in their places, that will be a monument of citizenship that will never be wiped out.

Every dollar that is subscribed for use in this way can be increased and made to do the work of five, because once land is purchased and a housing enterprise undertaken the dollar subscribed is able to borrow other dollars to carry out the project. Let every community view carefully its deteriorated areas and use this great opportunity to wipe them out. It will be a lasting charity, something that will shine through the ages as a modern, sensible, constructive, useful way to solve the great underlying problems of human life—the need for food, clothing, and adequate shelter.

EVIL FROM BAD HOUSING

Need I say that the children of future generations are dependent upon this? The children's courts, the reformatories for delinquents, the public-health records, all show the results of bad housing in contrast with good. We need a Nation of strong, healthy, clean-minded people. We have been that, and we risk the danger of being otherwise by bringing up thousands of young people in wretched surroundings. Let us remove the menace and build, out of our present difficulty, truly modern cities in which every type of citizen has the kind of housing of which none of us need be ashamed.

VI. SCHOOLS: CONSTRUCTION A CAMPAIGN FOR BOTH LITERACY AND EMPLOYMENT

Dr. WILLIS A. SUTTON, *president, National Education Association*[2]

An industry which calls for the expenditure of $400,000,000 annually, which has for its purpose the lifting of the educational level of an entire Nation, and which affects every part of the country, from the tiniest rural school district to the largest metropolitan centers, is certainly worth the attention of those who would renew the stability of industry and business through a public-buildings program. Such an industry is the construction and equipment of the American public school.

Two hundred and sixty thousand public-school buildings are now in use in the United States. Twenty thousand of these are consolidated schools serving rural areas of considerable size and providing educational opportunities which the children of these rural districts would otherwise never receive. We are building these consolidated schools at the rate of about 700 a year. They represent one of the most important phases of a national program to provide good schools for rural boys and girls.

NEW TYPE NEEDED

We have one hundred fifty thousand 1-room rural schoolhouses in use. Many of these buildings are sadly inadequate and should be abandoned at the earliest opportunity. They should be replaced by modern, well-constructed rural schools, of the consolidated type if possible. Where consolidation of school districts is not feasible, the 1-room rural school can be given a dignity and beauty which will greatly increase the value of the education given within its walls.

We have 11,000 secondary schools in the United States. These schools represent America's determination to give a complete education to all who can make use of it. Nowhere in the world can school buildings be found that are finer than our modern junior and senior high schools.

A steady flow of school-building construction is needed for three reasons: First, our present school buildings become obsolete and dangerous so that they must be replaced. Second, the enrollment in our schools and colleges is increasing so that additional new buildings are needed. Third, many thousands of American children never have attended school in an adequate building. Many children in rural areas, many negro children, many children even in some of our wealthiest cities have never been inside a modern high-class

[2] Through the courtesy of David Lawrence this address was given during a part of the period of his weekly broadcast.

schoolhouse. Our school-building program practically came to a standstill during the World War and many school districts and cities have not even yet regained the normal balance between the number of children and the school space available. Half-day sessions, portable shacks and tents, and the use of hallway and basement classrooms are common devices for temporarily meeting this maladjustment.

MANY BUILDINGS POORLY ADAPTED

The laws of all our States, based on the needs of democracy, compel children to attend school. We do not allow either the children or their parents any option in the matter whatever; they must attend. In view of this necessary compulsion, it is only common justice that no child shall be forced to attend school in a building which is a fire hazard, which endangers his health by inadequate ventilation and heating, which is not properly lighted, which does not provide generous space for physical training and healthful play, which is an affront to his sense of orderliness and beauty. Yet, millions of American children will be compelled to-morrow morning to study in school buildings that are unsafe, insanitary, overcrowded, ugly, or poorly adapted to the needs of modern education.

Now is the time to build schoolhouses. The shortage of jobs is sending many young men and women back to school for educational training and thus creating a need for more school space. An aggressive, well-planned school-building program in every community will do much to put business back on its feet and to hasten the return of prosperity. It is cheaper to build schools now than at any time in the past. The United States Department of Labor reports that the cost of building materials is far below normal levels. Building materials that cost $100 in 1926 and $95 a year ago can now be bought for $84. School boards and the public generally should take advantage of these low prices and should build schools now for future needs. A vigorous program of building construction, as applied to schools, will result in significant savings, stabilization of industry, better educational opportunities for our boys and girls, increased real-estate values, and the reduction of unemployment. The carpenter, the mason, the contractor, the supply dealer, the home owner, the taxpayer, the merchant, the manufacturer all will profit by a well-planned school-building program. Business depressions come and go, but the training of American youth for citizenship must not be interrupted.

VII. UNIVERSITIES: INTELLIGENT PLANNING, AN OBLIGATION OF LEADERSHIP

ELMER ELLSWORTH BROWN, *chancellor, New York University*

The plea has been put forward with great urgency that universities, colleges, and other nonprofit institutions expand their building operations in this time of unemployment. I wish to emphasize this plea. It is not often that good can be accomplished in so many directions by a single undertaking. To erect a new building at this time is to take advantage of the relatively low cost of materials. It is to provide work for those who would normally be employed and are now out of employment. It is to quicken the activity of all of those industries which are tributary to building construction. It is to accentuate the upward turn from a period of distressful discouragement and inactivity.

It is not only new construction in steel and stone and concrete that will have this effect, but those operations of repair and renovation which are always claiming attention even in the newest and most up-to-date institutions, and in the most of our educational institutions are long overdue. Even without the erection of new buildings a general overhauling and renewal of a university plant will be effective in the quickening of morale in the institution itself and in its tributary community.

ADVANTAGES OF PLANNING

As regards new construction, the advantages are most enjoyed by those institutions which have had the foresight to project their plans of building and landscape for a long time to come. They are ready to answer the question of prospective donors as to what building and of what type of architecture and for what particular location is now most imperatively needed. More fortunate still are those institutions which have plans already matured, dreams ready for realization as soon as the happy benefactor speaks the word and makes the needed contribution. All of our educational institutions, no matter how well housed and equipped, have those gaps which could be filled this year with double glory to the givers and double gain to the whole community.

But I come back to the homely, commonplace needs of renovation and repair. The poorest institutions and those blessed with fewest benefactors in the field of large and spectacular benevolence can make some improvement at this time where the hand of decay has lain heavily upon their physical plant, and in so doing can a little lift that heavier hand of economic and human depression in the circle in which their influence and example will be felt.

VIII. CHURCHES: THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CHURCH IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY

Right Rev. JAMES E. FREEMAN, *Bishop of Washington, National Cathedral, Washington, D. C.*

A talk on the unemployment situation is equivalent to a call to the colors. While no enemy forces from without threaten our tranquillity, the dark and forbidding spectacle of a great multitude of men and women in dire need shadows our country and fills us with deep concern. The problem is magnified by reason of the fact that the condition is general and not local. The economic problem is the paramount issue of the hour and must engage the serious consideration of all our citizens.

Widespread unemployment constitutes at once a challenge and a menace; a challenge in that it serves to give emphasis to our responsibility as sharers in a common misfortune, a menace in that it engenders unrest and dissatisfaction among the idle and a disposition to lose confidence in the existing social and economic order. No one, no matter what his situation or his seeming security and independence, can afford to be indifferent or unresponsive to the present situation. Selfish insularity or freedom from assumed responsibility at such a time as the present is a badge of shame and an evidence of disloyalty to the common good. If a touch of pity makes the whole world kin, then surely we have reached a stage where a practical demonstration must be given of the ties that bind us together in a great commonwealth.

IDLENESS FRAUGHT WITH PERIL

Entirely apart from the fact that there is urgent need for providing employment for those whose long period of enforced idleness has occasioned great distress and privation, we are compelled to reckon with the fact that protracted idleness is fraught with perils of many kinds. Nothing strains loyalty so much as idleness, with its tendency to morbid reflections, together with its accompanying privations. It is an easy matter for us to find ourselves en rapport with the existing social and economic order when our own situation is favorable and the means of subsistence guaranteed to us. The real test of loyalty comes when we are deprived of these things. While we believe profoundly in the unity and solidarity of our people, we also believe that every effort should be made to ease the strain put upon them, not through the giving of a dole or the temporary alleviation of their needs through organized charity, but by securing to them the means whereby, with self-respect, they can maintain themselves and their families and have the shadow dissipated that now falls across their hearthstone.

If those of us who have been safeguarded against misfortune during these trying and critical days could be made to realize more fully the implications that reside in the present situation, we should

certainly be more responsive and ready to help those upon whom the strain has fallen. Those who profess and practice the precepts of religion, a religion that lays upon its adherents the high claim, "Bear ye one another's burdens," have an obligation that can not be disesteemed or lightly set aside.

RESPONSIBILITY IS PERSONAL

The responsibility, as we see it, is not one that is to be borne solely by large corporate interests or by Federal and State agencies, it is personal to each one of us. There are literally tens of thousands of people in this country who have not felt in their own homes the strain of the critical months through which we have been passing. If every individual family that has been thus safeguarded could be made to assume an obligation toward another family less fortunately placed, the solution of our problem would be in sight. We need to apply the old maxim, "They that are strong ought to bear the burdens of those that are weak."

The church, in particular, of every name, should urge with all insistence that its members give a demonstration of the faith they profess. The churches, as corporate bodies, should endeavor in their respective communities, to undertake, without delay, any needed repairs or improvements that may serve to give employment to those in their communities who are idle through no fault of their own. We believe an opportunity such as we have not hitherto known is now afforded to give a demonstration of the pratical value of religion. To preach "Peace, peace, when there is no peace," is the part of folly. To say "Be ye warm and fed when we give not the things that are needful," is valueless and does irreparable harm.

THE CHURCH'S OPPORTUNITY

I repeat, if ever there was a time when the church could give demonstration of its deep and unfailing interest in the toilers, it is the present. The opportunity is at hand to give proof of the faith by which we live. We are able to cite the instance of one outstanding church in a metropolitan community that, through a well-conceived employment agency, has given work to upwards of 2,000 during the past six months.

In Washington, in the face of a diminished income, we are carrying forward the extensive building plans of the National Cathedral and its allied institutions. We are assuming large financial risks in doing so, but we conceive it to be our solemn duty to carry on until the unemployment situation finds a more practical solution. As a matter of fact, we have very considerably increased our force of workmen during recent months.

This message is sent to homes over the land, because it has to do with a home problem. It is a time that calls for action, wise action. Temporary expedients only serve to allay suffering; wiser and more statesmanlike methods, in which everyone plays a part, alone can solve the problem that to-day presses for solution.

I repeat, it is a call to the colors, a call to patriotic duty and loyal service and to a finer expression of those ideals of life that we hold to be indispensable to our physical, moral, and spiritual well-being.

IX. UNIVERSITIES: SOUND MANAGEMENT AND THE PUBLIC GOOD

ROBERT M. HUTCHINS, *president, University of Chicago*[3]

The only remedy for unemployment is employment. Private donations and public contributions must be made, and made on a large scale. Industry must do its part to take care of those who through a dislocation of industry have lost the means of decent living. But these things though necessary are merely palliatives, and perhaps they are, as we have often been told, contrary to the spirit of the American people, whatever that may mean. Certainly what the unemployed want is not relief but work. If work can not be given them, relief will have to serve. But since this is a problem that concerns every one of us, it is up to every one of us to consider what we in our own spheres may do to provide the employment that will eliminate unemployment.

The colleges and universities at this moment have a unique opportunity. Many of them have plans ready for new buildings. Others have just received funds with which to add to the plant. All of them must make their annual repairs and replacements. If the 754 colleges and universities in all parts of the country will hasten the construction of new buildings and resist the temptation to defer maintenance they will make a decided contribution to the solution of the unemployment problem. As Governor Smith has pointed out in this series of radio talks, in any economic revival the building industries must lead. The tremendous volume of work that educational institutions could throw into this industry if they set themselves to the task would have a striking effect upon the building trades, and consequently upon industry as a whole. The result of an economic revival, and the most important result to the country at large, will be a reduction in unemployment.

COST IS LOWER

To philanthropic and charitable institutions it is, of course, indelicate to appeal in terms of their own self-interest. If it were proper, one might point out that they are not likely soon to see again a time in which they can build so much for so little money. It is probably fair to say that in most places to-day a university building can be put up at a cost at least 10 per cent below that of normal times. To hasten the construction of such buildings now is therefore to perform a task that should be doubly gratifying; it is an economical thing to do, and it is a public-spirited thing to do.

If we regard all the money coming to an educational institution as a single stream that may be diverted this way or that according to

[3] Through the courtesy of Collier's Weekly this address was given during a part of the period of its weekly broadcast.

the needs of the moment, we observe that there is a final reason why the rapid construction of college and university buildings is imperative. The first duty of any educational executive is to improve the standard of living of the staff. Money that can be used for this purpose should never be used for anything else. All other expenditures should be so arranged as to release as much as possible of the institution's funds for salary purposes. If universities defer maintenance now, only to take it up when it costs more, if they defer building now when it will never cost less, they are in effect putting into buildings money that should go to their teachers and investigators. They must make these repairs and build these buildings sometime. They should do it when they will cost the least and leave the most available for the members of the staff.

ALL CAN SHARE

Acceleration of educational building operations is therefore from the standpoint of the public good, of self-interest, and of scholarship and education in America of the greatest importance to us all. It will hasten the economic revival which we trust is now impending, and through it colleges and universities can do their share to put an end to unemployment.

X. CHURCHES: CONSTRUCTION AN EFFECTIVE SUPPLEMENT TO CHARITABLE RELIEF

Rev. Dr. JOHN O'GRADY, *secretary, National Conference of Catholic Charities*

It is when we are torn by suffering and when dark clouds hover over us that we need especially the balm and light of Christian teaching. In prosperity we are liable to become selfish and self-sufficient. Suffering brings us together and emphasizes our common humanity. Christianity lifts us up to God by a bond of brotherhood that joins all mankind to Him.

The most fascinating pages in the history of the church are those that deal with its works of charity. They bring the members of Christ's mystical body closer to God than anything else in life. The most beautiful figures in the life of the church, those from whom Christianity draws a continuous inspiration, are those whose lives were dedicated to charity.

It is in periods of great emergency that the charities of the Catholic Church have risen to the greatest heights. During the present serious unemployment crisis the priests and the Catholic laity of the United States are endeavoring to live up to the best traditions of their church. They are bringing relief to the unemployed through 62 diocesan-wide organizations of Catholic charities through 2,000 parish conferences of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and through 25 hotels for homeless men.

RELIEF EXPENDITURES UP

Last November the National Conference of Catholic Charities began to compile figures on the monthly relief expenditures of Catholic agencies in the United States. The figures for December show an increase of 50 per cent over November. Incomplete figures for January indicate a like increase over the previous month. Reports from Catholic child-caring agencies show that they have been taxed more severely this winter than in any other period of their history. Steadily mounting unemployment has made it impossible for relief agencies to maintain their accepted standards of home care for children.

Catholic organizations in the United States have not satisfied themselves merely with providing relief for unemployment. They recognize that what the worker needs more than anything else is an opportunity for gainful employment. The Catholic bishops therefore have done everything possible to speed up their building program. Reports received by the news service of the National Catholic Welfare Conference show that more than $20,000,000 is being expended in Catholic building projects during the present winter.

ALL MUST BE INTERESTED

The unemployment crisis is a challenge to the best thought and experience of America. More than ever before there is brought to the surface the most serious defect in our whole economic structure. Every American, independent of creed or political party, must be interested in finding a permanent solution for this greatest of all social problems. Its continuous presence is the greatest reflection on our political, economic, and scientific progress.

Catholic charitable agencies all over the country are joining with other community agencies in organizing relief measures for the unemployed and in planning programs for the prevention of unemployment in the future. Building as they do on the principle of Christian justice, Catholic agencies strike out irresistibly for a social order in which all men will have the things necessary for their present needs and reasonable security against industrial hazards. In a statement made last November in behalf of the cardinals, archbishops, and bishops of the United States on the unemployment situation, Archbishop Hanna stated: "More than temporary alms is necessary. Justice should be done. This unemployment returning again to plague us after so many repetitions during the century past is a sign of deep failure in our country."

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